

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the present Amendment. The Official Action, mailed January 26, 2005, has been carefully reviewed. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 have been amended.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 1 because of certain informalities, viz., that "bolt" should be ---nut--- on line 3 thereof and that "therein" should be ---thereon--- on line 5 thereof. By this Amendment, the aforementioned informalities have been corrected, and thus, the Examiner's objections to same have been overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Cull reference (U.S. Patent No. 796,900). It is respectfully submitted that a review of this reference reveals that it does not anticipate, disclose, suggest or make obvious the Applicant's invention. The Applicant's invention is directed to an interlocking nut assembly to secure a bolt. The interlocking nut assembly is comprised of two nuts, each nut being provided with internal threads having a standard number of threads per inch corresponding to the standard number of threads per inch on the bolt to be secured. The first nut is also provided with a concentric blind bore having female threads therein adjacent one end thereof. The second nut is provided with a blind bore and a longitudinally extending concentric flange portion having male threads thereon. The longitudinal extending concentric flange portion on the second nut is adjacent the end of the second nut that has a blind bore therein. In the preferred embodiment of the Applicant's invention, the number of female threads per inch in the concentric blind bore in the first nut and the number of male threads per

inch on the longitudinally extending flange portion on the second nut are the same and are slightly less than the number of internal threads per inch in both nuts and on the bolt to be secured causing a camming action to be created between the internal threads on the nuts and the female threads on the first nut and the male threads on the longitudinally extending portion on the second nut when the male threads on the longitudinally extending portion on the second nut are threadingly received within the female threads in the first nut causing both nuts to securely engage the bolt. It should be noted that continuous engagement on the bolt by the internal threads in the first nut and the internal threads in the second nut is not present since blind bore in the second nut interrupts such engagement. In addition, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, nut 14 is not threadably advanced into nut 12 so as to be flush against nut 12, thus permitting adjustment of the resulting camming action.

The Cull reference (U.S. Patent No. 796,900) discloses a locking nut arrangement that is, in some respects, similar to the Applicant's invention but utilizes locking nuts in an orientation that is substantially opposite to the orientation used in the Applicant's invention. For example, nut 3 in the Cull reference has a hub portion that engages the part to be secured and a longitudinally extending flange portion having male threads thereon. In the Applicant's invention, the longitudinally extending flange portion 42 is part of nut 14, which does not secure members 60 and 62 together. Members 60 and 62 in the Applicant's invention are secured by nut 12, rather than by nut 14. In addition, in the Cull reference, the internal threads within nut 3 are present throughout the entire length of nut 3. In contrast, in the Applicant's invention, the internal threads 40 within nut 14 are only present for a portion of the length of nut 14;

the remaining portion of the length of nut 14 is in the form of a blind bore defined by inner concentric surface 42. Furthermore, nut 2 in the Cull reference is similar to nut 12 in the Applicant's invention but does not secure the part(s) to be secured, as does nut 12 in the Applicant's invention. In view of these differences in operation and structure of the Applicant's invention with respect to the locking nut arrangement disclosed in the Cull reference, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicant's invention is patentable over this reference. However, in order to more specifically define the Applicant's invention over the Cull reference, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the second nut (nut 14) has a blind bore (44) therein adjacent its end (46). In view of this amendment of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this claim, and all claims dependent thereon, are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 have also been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Dillon reference (U.S. Patent No. 257,854). Here again, it is respectfully submitted that a review of this reference reveals that it does not anticipate, disclose, suggest or make obvious the Applicant's invention. The Dillon reference discloses a locking nut arrangement that is similar, in some respects, to the Applicant's invention but differs in that nut C in this reference has internal threads throughout its entire length, and that a continuous thread is formed when nut C is screwed so as to jam against nut B (column 1, lines 33-35). In contrast, as previously mentioned, in the Applicant's invention, the threads on bolt 16 are not continuously engaged by internal threads 18, 40 on nuts 12, 14, respectively, since the internal threads 40 within nut 14 are only present for a portion of the length of nut 14; the remaining portion of the length of nut 14 being in the form of a blind bore defined by

inner concentric surface 42. In addition, nut 14 in the Applicant's invention is not threadably advanced into nut 12 so as to be flush with nut 12. In view of these operational and structural differences between the Applicant's invention and the locking nut arrangement shown in the Dillon reference, and further in view of the amendment of claim 1 to include the limitation that the second nut (14) has a blind bore (44) therein adjacent its end (46), it is respectfully submitted that this claim, and all claims dependent thereon, are now in condition for allowance.

In view of this Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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